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AMENDMENT   08/15/03

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of developing a dialogue-enabled application for executing on a computer that enables a human and a computer to interact, comprising the acts of:

   (a)   inputting instructions specifying the flow of a conversation to a design tool, said design tool producing a data file, said data file containing information concerning prompts, responses, branches and conversation flow for implementing a human-computer speech-enabled interaction; and

   (b)   instantiating an interpreter object within ~~the~~ an application, the interpreter object interpreting the data file to provide the human-computer dialogue-enabled interaction defined by the data file.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said data file further contains information concerning a speech recognition engine.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said data file is automatically stored.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said inputting of instruction takes place through a graphical interface.

5. (Original) A system for developing dialogue-enabled software for executing on a computer that enables a human and a computer to interact comprising:

   a design tool for accepting instructions specifying the flow of a conversation, said design tool producing a data file; and

   an interpreter for interpreting said data file, said interpreter automatically enabling the human-computer interaction.

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6. (Original) The system of claim 5 further comprising a library, wherein the library contains said data files.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the design tool further comprises a graphical interface.

8. (Original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions for instructing a computer to perform the acts of:

accepting instructions, said instructions specifying a flow of conversation between a human and a computer;

producing a data file for input to an interpreter;

interpreting said data file; and

providing the human-computer dialogue-enabled interaction.

9. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 containing further instructions enabling the generated code to be immediately accessible to other software developers.

10. (Original) A dialogue flow interpreter (DFI) for use in computer-implemented system for carrying out a dialogue between a human and a computer, wherein the DFI comprises computer executable instructions for reading a data file containing information concerning prompts, responses, branches and conversation flow for implementing a human-computer dialogue, and computer executable code for using said information in combination with a library of shared objects to conduct said dialogue.

11. (Original) A DFI as recited in claim 10, wherein the DFI is implemented in an application comprising, in addition to the DFI, a language interpreter, recognition engine, and voice input/output device.

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